

## THE INTERNATIONAL PHYTOGEOGRAPHIC EXCURSION IN CALIFORNIA.

The first International Phytogeographic Excursion was conducted through the British Isles by the British Vegetation Committee in August, 1911. It was so successful that arrangements were made by Professor Cowles of Chicago for a similar excursion in the United States, in order to observe the more important vegetation areas in general, and to visit special localities under the leadership of American botanists whose studies have given such localities a classical interest.

After spending several weeks in the eastern United States, the Rocky Mountains, Washington, and Oregon, the party arrived in California on September 6th. It consisted of the following members: Dr. H. Brockmann-Jerosch, Zurich; Frau Dr. Brockmann-Jerosch, Zurich; Dr. Geo. E. Nichols, Yale University; Dr. Ove Paulsen, Copenhagen; Dr. Eduard Rübel, Zurich; Professor Carl Schröter, Zurich; Professor C. von Tubeuf, University of Munich; Dr. T. J. Stomps, Amsterdam; Mr. A. G. Tansley, University of Cambridge, England; Mrs. A. G. Tansley, Cambridge; Professor Adolf Engler, Royal Botanic Garden, Berlin; Professor H. C. Cowles, University of Chicago; Dr. A. Dachnowski, Columbus; Mr. Geo. D. Fuller, University of Chicago; Professor F. E. Clements, University of Minnesota; Mrs. F. E. Clements, University of Minnesota.

The party arrived in Oakland on the morning of September 7th, and immediately left for the Yosemite Valley and the Big Trees, under the leadership of Professor W. L. Jepson and Professor H. M. Hall of the University of California. The characteristic foothill flora of the Sierra Nevada was observed from the train windows. After a three-hour stop in Yosemite, the party went directly on to the Mariposa Big Tree Grove. An entire day was spent in the Upper and Lower groves examining the most magnificent examples of *Sequoia gigantea* and studying the vegetative carpet and shrubs of the forest floor. Thence the party proceeded to Glacier Point above Yosemite, with several stops on the way to inspect the Red Fir forest and the associated species. The herbaceous species of the granite were studied to advantage on the top of Sentinel Dome, and the chaparral of high altitudes, at 7,000 to 8,500 feet, came in for attention.

The party made the return trip through the entire length of Yosemite Valley by the way of Vernal and Nevada falls and returned to San Francisco. Local excursions were made to Mt. Tamalpais under the leadership of Miss Alice Eastwood, and to Stanford University under the leadership of Professor D. H. Campbell. At Redwood City the party observed a salt marsh and its vegetation

under the leadership of Professor J. G. Pierce of Stanford University. The party next proceeded to Monterey, in order to examine the remarkable tree island of the Monterey Peninsula, under the leadership of Professor L. R. Abrams of Stanford University, and of the chaparral under the guidance of Dr. W. S. Cooper. For studies of the marine algae of the Monterey coast, parties were led by Professor W. A. Setchell of the University of California. From Monterey the excursion proceeded to Arizona, stopping off at Mecca, in the Colorado Desert of California, for examination of the desert flora, on a trip along the borders of the Salton Sea under the direction of Dr. D. T. MacDougal of the Carnegie Desert Laboratory, and Mr. S. B. Parish of San Bernardino.

W. L. JEPSON.

#### DINNER TO THE INTERNATIONAL PHYTOGEOGRAPHIC EXCURSION.

The members of the Phytogeographic Excursion were entertained at dinner by the California Botanical Society at the Hotel Oakland on the evening of Friday, September 12th, 1913. Professor Jepson, President of the Society, presided.

THE PRESIDENT: Members of the Botanical Society and honored guests: We are met here at dinner to greet fraternally the members of the Second International Phytogeographic Excursion and give them a welcome to California. Just now the party is fresh from the scenes of the Yosemite and Mariposa Big Trees, laden with botanical spoils, and covered impartially with the dust of the San Joaquin. We Californians, who have had the great privilege of traveling with them, have had a delightful experience. These visitors to California have been most appreciative of what we have had to show. They have stepped blithely from dome to dome about Yosemite, happily content that there was no danger, as amongst the sharp-pointed Alps at home, of slivering a mountain peak in one's foot. Without mar or accident, all has gone well. The great quest in the Sierras was, to be sure, the Big Trees. We knew in advance that they would desire to have cones of *Sequoia gigantea*. As it is inconvenient to pick from the tops of the trees, we arranged the matter with Mr. Zeus, a Greek citizen, and coworker with Mr. Franklin and Mr. Farraday, to strike gently the top of one of the trees with his bolt. So the party found on the ground about the Indiana tree branchlets and cones neatly arranged for their inspection—and collection. One of the party regretted that the azaleas along the Merced were not in flower. This was an oversight which we lament, as we should have had them properly etherized. But in any event the party was extremely appreciative of our humble efforts in their behalf.

This is the first party of botanists to come to California as an organized excursion. Thirty-six years ago a small party, consisting of the botanists Sir Joseph Hooker and Asa Gray, and a geologist, Director Hayden of the Geological Survey, visited California, and were entertained by the California Academy of Sciences. Their coming was an event long remembered by California botanists. Since that time many new schools of morphology, of physiology, and other branches of botany have come into prominence, schools which in the main deal exclusively with the plant or plant parts under control—in the laboratory, the greenhouse, or under the compound microscope. But now there arises a school of botanists, the plant ecologists, who are leading us back to the fields and woods, taking with them the experience of all other schools, and in addition making important use of the observations of the old-time naturalists. California is a glorious field for such work, and we welcome them here to help us appreciate our own flora, and to help Californians to an appreciation of it. In this welcome I ask my colleague, Professor Setchell, to join me.

Professor Setchell spoke a few words of cordial welcome to the visiting botanists, both those of foreign countries and of our own, who had journeyed so far and seen so many wonderful things. He bade them welcome on behalf of the botanical department of the University of California, and on his own behalf, and wished them the greatest success in their further studies in this state and in adjacent states, and expressed the hope that the remainder of their journey might be even more pleasant than its preceding stages.

THE PRESIDENT: "We have in our company tonight a zoologist who has made for himself a celebrated name in geographical problems in America, and whose distributional work with both plants and animals is known everywhere. I take pleasure in introducing Dr. C. Hart Merriam, long time Chief of the United States Geological Survey."

Dr. Merriam echoed the expressions of welcome already made, and spoke of the special interest that California has for the naturalist from the great diversity of conditions of soil and climate within comparatively small areas.

THE PRESIDENT: "It is always pleasant to botanists to know that those who sit in the seats of the mighty are friendly to their cause. Most people imagine that the present Acting President of the University of California is most celebrated for his achievements in the Philippines, but there are those of us who know that his claims to fame belong elsewhere. In his earlier youth he completed a piece of work on "The Ethno-Botany of the Coahuilla Indians." It is for this that we botanists claim him. I take great pleasure in introducing Dr. David P. Barrows."

DR. BARROWS: "Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen: The work on botany mentioned by the Chairman, I had almost forgotten



as a botanical subject, because that feature was only incidental to the study of ethnology in which I was engaged for the ten years from 1890 to 1900. But my interest in botany was aroused by the study, and was strengthened by my observations of the botanical gardens at Buitenzorg, Java, which are probably the most famous in the world, the only rival being the Kew Gardens in London. The plants in this garden are of a wonderful variety, possible because of the tropical climate and abundant moisture. The gardens stand without peer in the studied care with which they are laid out and kept, and in the wonderful luxuriance of growth and the vivid coloring of the flowers. Everything from all the world seems to thrive. Recalling the splendor of these gardens, I have often asked myself why could not the botanical public of California establish even such gardens at our own University; for there we have ample space in the rolling hills beyond the campus, which could be laid out in most picturesque effects.

"The climate of California lends itself to the cultivation of floras of many types because of its mildness; and the variation from the moisture of winter months to the dryness of the summer season gives suitable conditions for plants of a great difference of habit. The soil of the Berkeley Hills is also variable, and would therefore accommodate many species. The fact that the University Hills are higher than the surrounding country would add greatly to the facility of building up gardens, and to the charm that would invest them when completed. If we had such a place at our University it would be a powerful factor, as added to the natural attractions of the state, in enlisting the interest of botanists and flower lovers in the Pacific Coast and in California."

THE PRESIDENT: "The organizer of the International Phyto-geographic Excursion in America is one of our country's most famous ecologists. He belongs to the 'Middle West,' but he has learned since reaching California that he is from the 'East.' I will now call upon Dr. Cowles, Professor of Plant Ecology in the University of Chicago."

"Mr. President: It has been a delightful pleasure to us to journey through this region, and enjoy the wonderful vegetation and the hospitality of California. Once, many years ago, I came to this Golden State and luxuriated in golden days. I have happy memories of that time. Now that I am come back to it I find your dust of the San Joaquin as sweet as the peaches of Sonoma, the hot air of the foothills as intoxicating as if wafted from Araby the Blest. Our work has been successful far beyond our expectations. We are deeply indebted to you for your aid, and I thank you on behalf of the whole party."

THE PRESIDENT: "The great quest of the plant geographers to California was undoubtedly the Big Trees. One of the European botanists said to me: 'I have looked forward all my life to seeing

these great trees. I shall make one journey to them; shall see them only once.' We shall now hear with very great interest from Professor Tubeuf of the University of Munich."

"Ladies and Gentlemen: The uniqueness of this occasion has impressed me more and more during the course of this dinner. Nowhere on our long journey have we been received with such magnificent, not to say princely, hospitality. And the ladies here, fair as your skies, rosy as your wine—nowhere else have ladies and wine added so memorable a feature to American hospitality. The Hebrews have a proverb to the effect that one ought 'not to muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn.' You follow it to the letter. You even insist that he shall open his mouth, whatever be the result.

"You will, I hope, not take it amiss that I speak in my native tongue. In German I am on firm ground. In English I am liable to get stuck in a swamp of words. Among your accomplishments you doubtless reckon this also, that you have a botanist's familiarity with flowers of speech—even German ones. I am speaking for my colleagues as well as for myself when I say that we are intensely interested in the extremely diversified flora of California.

"When a lad I read in the geographies of your high mountains, wonderful trees, and fields of glorious bloom. It was the dream of my youth to see this paradise. Now in the evening of life I come, with my colleagues. We are not disappointed, we are astonished; what we find is finer than any dream. Your ancient trees seen in all their living splendor are far beyond what any picture can convey. And as we stood looking up at one of the giant Sequoias a creature flew about nearby. Everything you had shown us was on such a grand scale, I said, 'this must be a California butterfly.' It alighted; and behold, it was no butterfly but a bird, a hummingbird. How most remarkable, at the same moment, to see the smallest of birds and the greatest of trees!

"And not less interesting than your flora is the freedom, the abandon, the largeness, the youth, of your Western life. It is extremely gratifying to find amid this absorbing material development of your civilization that interest in scientific pursuits to which this dinner, this Society, and this splendid occasion testify. It is truly American—may I say Californian?—that town and gown unite in cherishing and promoting this interest in the wonderful world of plants. Let me assure you that this will remain a memorable occasion with us all, and we hope the California Botanical Society will live to the age and dignity of your mighty Sequoias."

THE PRESIDENT: "We have here in California no botanical garden which may be truly called such; nor have we any great arboretum, although we have the finest of all natural coniferous woodlands in the world. As we have just returned from the *Sequoia gigantea* groves, it is fitting that the foremost of living botanists should say a word in regard to the greatest of all trees. I now have

the especial honor of presenting to you Dr. Adolf Engler, Professor of Botany and Director of the Royal Botanical Gardens at Berlin."

"Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the California Botanical Society: My English is limited, and I find it difficult to express appreciation of your courtesy to us. But for my friends and myself I thank you for the welcome conveyed in this table spread with choice food and rare wine, in the beautiful flowers all about us, and most of all in the presence of the charming ladies of your charming State.

"We have seen wonderful things in California and are well repaid for the arduous days of our journey. We have just arrived from the Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Grove of Big Trees. The Yosemite is truly wonderful. But what can I say of the Big Trees? The impression made upon my mind by the *Sequoia gigantea* will never die within me. The fine trees in the Mariposa Grove excited the loftiest feelings. I bared my head before them. I walked around them. I placed my hand reverently on their trunks, for they are the great wonders of the plant kingdom.

"And now we come to your cities and are met on all sides by the growth of your civilization. But it seems that you have no great botanic garden in California, and this is noticeable because there are few more favorable places in the world than this for a great botanic garden. It would be a task of pure joy to bring plants and trees from all parts of California that your own people, as well as travelers, might observe and study your flora in a compact view. Moreover, you would wish to bring desirable plants from the limits of the earth and teach the strangers to thrive in their new home. It is a magnificent project and you Americans could carry it along magnificently.

"But I hear it said you have no money. Ah, that is no worthy answer! And how can that be? I see on every side the signs of great wealth. You have money for what you call skyscrapers—money for palaces and cities. It would be a disgrace to say you had no money for botanical science, for one of the important things to the state must be a botanic garden. As you know, nearly every important city in Europe has its botanic garden. I make a plea to you who are so greatly favored by nature to add to what nature has done, and to build for yourselves and for the whole world a treasure spot, which shall have living, growing plants from all California and from the far corners of the earth. I desire to see a great botanic garden in California because a great botanic garden is very near my heart. Such a collection as I picture would enrich the whole botanical world and would be forever an honor to you its builders."

After the dinner the party adjourned to the ballroom of the hotel where an illustrated lecture on the flora of the Alps was given by Professor Schröter.